

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 02509 262250Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 ACDA-12 MCE-00 NSC-05
/071 W

-----062844 270701Z /15

R 262213Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0079
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 2509

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, GT
SUBJ: LOW KEY PUBLIC REACTION TO F-5 TURNDOWN

1. NEWS OF THE USG REJECTION OF THE GUATEMALAN REQUEST TO
PURCHASE F-5E AIRCRAFT HAS THUS FAR RECEIVED LIMITED ATTENTION
IN THE GUATEMALAN MEDIA. LA NACION RAN THE WASHINGTON DATELINE
AP DISPATCH WHICH PARALLELS THE AP STORY RUN APRIL 25 IN THE
WASHINGTON POST. LA NACION'S HEADLINE WAS NON-CONTENTIOUS.

2. DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENCY, MAJOR ROLANDO
ARCHILA, WAS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS IN PRENSA LIBRE APRIL 26
(UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED):

GUATEMALA IS FREE TO ACQUIRE MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN ANY COUNTRY
DESIRING TO SELL. THE US HAS BEEN THE TRADITIONAL PROVIDER OF
ARMAMENTS FOR OUR COUNTRY, BUT OWING TO SITUATIONS DETERMINED
BY THAT FRIENDLY COUNTRY, IT DECIDED NOT TO SELL TO GUATEMALA.
BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT GUATEMALA CANNOT ACQUIRE ARMS
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ELSEWHERE. LIKE ALL COUNTRIES, GUATEMALA CONTINUALLY NEEDS TO
REPLACE AND RENEW ITS MILITARY EQUIPMENT, SINCE THE LATTER
DETERIORATES WITH USE. THE UNITED STATES IS THE NATURAL
PROVIDER OF SUCH EQUIPMENT, BUT IF IT CLOSES ITS DOORS, THAT
DOESN'T MEAN THAT GUATEMALA IS LEFT WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO
ACQUIRE ARMS. WE CAN BUY IN FRANCE, BELGIUM, SWEDEN, ISRAEL
AND EVEN IN RUSSIA.

3. COMMENT: ARCHILA STATEMENT PARALLELED PRE-TURNDOWN
COMMENTS TO THE PRESS BY PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AND DEFENSE
MINISTER SPIEGELER.
BOSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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